

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NEA-10 EUR-12 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /098 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MULITILATERAL AFFAIRS -OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING,
LOME, FEBRUARY 22-26

REF: A. STATE 032906, B. ADDIS ABABA 0872 (NOTAL)

COMMENTS ON ISSUES LISTED IN REFTTEL A. FOLLOW:

1. OAU SUMMIT ON SPANISH SAHARA : FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH
OAU OFFICIALS HERE, IT SEEMS CLAEAR THAT OAU ITSELF IS
ANXIOUS TO HOLD SUMMIT ON SPANISH SAHARA, DEPSITE LUKEWARM
ATTITUDE OF MANY MEMBER COUNTIRES. OAU IS, OF COURSE,
COMMITTED TO DO SO UNDER RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT MAURITIUS
SUMMIT. ETHIOPIA FOR ITS PART HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO
HOST SUMMIT SOMETIME AFTER MID-APRIL, AND OAU ASSISTANT
SECGEN PETER ONU SAYS THAT 25 MEMBER STATES HAVE ALREADY
AGREED TO ATTEND. ON OTHER HAND,ETHIOPIA, GIVEN ADDITIONAL
SECURITY PROBLEMS OF HOSTING SUMMIT, CONFERENCE WILL PROBABLY
NOT BE UPSET IF MEETING NEVER MATERIALIZES.

2. CURRENT STATE OF ARAB-AFRICAN RELATIONS: ALTHOUGH
THEY HAVE PROVEN UNWILLING IN PAST TO RAISE PROBLEM OF
ERITREAN INSURGENCY IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, ETHIOPIANS
MAY CHOOSE THIS TIME TO RAISE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
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ISSUE. EPMG REACTED SHARPLY TO SUDANESE PRESIDENT
NIMEIRI'S JANUARY 30 PRESS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF
ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE AND MAY WANT TO GARNER BROAD
BLACK AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR SEEKING SOLUTION WHICH WOULD
KEEP ERITREA WITHIN ETHIOPIAN BOUNDARIES. IF TOPIC IS
RAISED, HOWEVER, DISCUSSION IS LIKELY TO SPILL OVER
INTO BROADER SUBJECT OF ARAB COUNTIES' MATERIAL AND

MORAL SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN CAUSE, AND ARAB STATES WOULD NO DOUBT RETALIATE WITH CHARGES AND PUBLIC AIRING OF EPMG ACTIVITIES IN ERITREA , WHICH WOULD BE PUBLICLY EMBARRASSING. FOR THIS REASON, MEDIATION EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY ON PART OF FOUR FRIENDLY AFRICAN COUNTRIES- TANZANAI, SENEGAL, CHANA, AND NIBERIA--WITH VIEW TO RESOLVING DISPUTE PEACEFULLY AND PRIVATELY, BEFORE IT BECOMES MULTILATERAL ISSUE.

3. MOVING OAU SITE: AS INDICATED REFTEL B, SUDAN INTENDS TO RAISE ISSUE TO WITHDRAWING OAU HEADQUARTERS SITE FROM ADDIS ABABA FOR SECURITY AND OTHER REASONS. OAU AND AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HAERE ANTICIPATE THAT ANY SUCH MOVE ON SUDAN'S PART HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF RECEIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AT LOME.

4. DJIBOUTI: EMBASSY EXPECTS DJIBOUTI ISSUE WILL BE RAISED IN LOME IN VIEW FACT THAT FRENCH DETERMINATION TO HOLD PARIS ROUNDTABLE LATE FEBRUARY AS SCHEDULED APPARENTLY PUTS CRIMP IN OAU SECGEN ETEKI'S PUBLIC STATEMENT EARLY THIS MONTH (REFTEL B) THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF "CANCELED" PARIS MEETING WAS TO OBSTRUCT OAU EFFORT HAS PLACED OAU AND ITS SECGEN IN EMBARRASSING POSITION. SINCE IT APPEARS AT THIS TIME THAT ONLY SOMALI-BACKED POLITICAL GROUPS WILL BE ATTENDING PARIS CONFERENCE, EPMG WILL NO DOUBT ATTEMPT TO USE LOME FOR ITS OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES. EPMG MAY PUSH AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS FOR BROAD RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING PAST UN AND OAU RESOLUTIONS ON DJIBOUTI, CALLING ON SOMALIA TO RENOUNCE HER TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ON

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DJIBOUTI, AN EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF ACCRA ROUNDTABLE. ETHIOPIANS AND EPMG-SUPPORTED TFAI POLITICAL GROUPS WILL NO DOUBT SPEND SOME TIME IN CORRIDORS ATTEMPTING TO PAINT PICTURE OF SOMALIA AND SOMALIA-BACKED TFAI POLITICAL GROUPS AS UNDERMINING AFRICAN UNITY. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT OAU WILL ACCEPT ANY STRONGER LANGUAGE ON QUESTION OF SOMALI CLAIMS.

5. PATRIOTIC FRONT: RECENT OAU LIVERATION COMMITTEE FORMULA WAS OBVIOUS EFFORT BY OAU TO SANCTION FAIT ACCOMPLI DECISION OF FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS TO RECOGNIZE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND TO CLOAK DECISION IN LANGUAGE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL AFRICAN STATES. OAU STAFF WILL ARGUE THAT FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS ARE THOSE PRIMARILY INVOLVED WITH, AND AFFECTED BY, ZIMBABWE SITUATION AND THAT PRESENT LIBERATION COMMITTEE FORMULA IS FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENT, WHICH CAN BE INTERPRETED BY MEMBER STATES AS REQUIRED. STAFF WILL ALSO POINT TO RESULTS OF AFRICAN DIVISION ON ANGOLA AND PUSH FOR AFRICAN-WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF OAU FORMULA. EPMG WILL

HAVE LITTLE OR NO DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING OAU
LIBERATION COMMITTEE POSITION. EPMG WILL PROBABLY
MOVE WITH MAJORITY AND AVOID TAKING MAJOR ROLE.

6. U.S. POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA: EPMG WILL ATTEMPT
REFRAIN FROM TAKING PUBLIC POSITION AND WILL NO
DOUBT FOLLOW CONSENSUS.

7. OTHER MULTILATERAL, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ISSUES
(REFTELA): WE EXPECT THAT ETHIOPIA WILL ADHERE TO ITS
RECENT POSTURE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS OF NOT PLAYING
PROMINENT ROLE, VOTING ACCORDING TO WILL OF CONSENSUS,
AND GENERALLY SUPPORTING MORE EXTREME POSITIONS OF NON-
ALIGNED GRUP. PREOCCUPIED AS COUNTRY IS WITH DOMESTIC
POLITICAL CONVULSIONS OF PAST THREE WEEKS,AND IN
ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER FROM EPMG DELEGATION, LOW
PROFILE SEEMS ALMOST ASSURED. SEE ALSO ADDIS ABABA 0954.
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Message Attributes

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